

LESSON 11

KUFFAR'S OFFER REJECTED MUSLIMS' SOCIAL BOYCOTT BEGINS

Seventh to Tenth Year of Prophethood

The acceptance of Islam by Hamzah (R) and Umar (R) made the Kuffar very nervous. Also, the number of Muslims continued to increase. It was no longer safe for the Kuffar to harm and insult Rasulullah (S). They asked the Prophet's family to disown him. But his uncle, Abu Talib, stood firmly with Rasulullah (S).

Some Kuffar foolishly thought that Muhammad (S) opposed their religion because he wanted to be their leader. Some of them said, "If we make Muhammad our leader, he will be satisfied. He will not oppose our gods." So they decided to send 'Utba bin Rabi'a, one of their leaders, to Rasulullah (S) to make a generous offer.

'Utba went to Rasulullah (S) and told him, "Muhammad, you belong to the noble family of Quraish, but your teachings are destroying our unity. We shall give you everything you want. But we love our idols. Please do not condemn them."

The Prophet (S) listened to him quietly and then replied to them, "I do not do anything for myself. I do not seek any reward from you. My reward is with Allah."

He then recited some verses of the Surah Ha Mim al-Saidah to him. "Ha Mim: A revelation from the Mercy-giving, the Merciful. It is a book in which verses are explained, a recitation in Arabic for a people who have knowledge." (41:1-3).

'Utba listened to him intently. Rasulullah (S) saw how impressed 'Utba was. He continued to recite, and 'Utba continued to listen for some time. When Rasulullah (S) reached the Ayah of Saidah (38), Rasulullah (S) went in Sajdah. Then he raised his head from Sajdah and said, "This is my answer to your offer. Now you can inform this to your friends."

'Utba got up, went to the chiefs of the Quraish, and told them, "Today I have heard those things which I did not hear before. I advise you not to bother Muhammad."

The chiefs were very disappointed. They said, "Muhammad's magic has affected 'Utba's mind." The Kuffar were disappointed, but now they decided on something new and more fearsome. They decided to boycott the Prophet's family, the Banu Hashim.

Banu Hashim were forced to live for three years in a lonely place called the Valley of Abu Talib. The Makkan leaders used their influence to make both the Makkan people and outsiders boycott the Banu Hashim. No one was allowed to visit them or help them. They were deprived of food and water. The Muslims and the family of Rasulullah (S) were hungry and thirsty, but they would not give up.

After three years, the Kuffar got tired. They saw that the Muslims loved their religion and would not submit to force. Some Kuffar favored ending the boycott.

Three years of hardships had affected the health of many of the Muslims. Rasulullah's wife, Khadijah (R), and uncle, Abu Talib, were old. They had suffered so much in the valley that they became sick and died soon after their release. Both of them had supported Rasulullah (S) in the most difficult times, and he loved them. Rasulullah (S) was very grieved at this loss.

Khadijah(R) was an example of a good, devoted Muslim wife. Rasulullah(S) had three sons and four daughters with Khadijah(R). His three sons; Qasim(R), Tayyib(R), and Tahir(R), died when they were very young, but the four daughters, Zainab(R), Ruqayyah(R), Umm Kulthum(R), and Fatimah(R), survived. All four of them were married; three of them died in the life-time of Rasulullah(S).

Rasulullah (S) never forgot Khadijah's love and affection, and he remembered her always. Their twenty-five years of life together were an ideal husband and wife relationship. In Arabia, polygamy was common, and Islam permits it, but Rasulullah(S) did not take a second wife while Khadijah(R) was alive. Thus, he set an example of a monogamous marriage. After her death, Rasulullah(S) married several times and set an example for an ideal polygamous relationship.

Abu Talib never accepted Islam, but he loved his nephew. When all the Makkans were against Muhammad (S), he did not desert him. Rasulullah (S) called it a year of sorrow. Allah once again showed to Muhammad (S) that he must rely on Allah alone and that all human relationships are, in fact, temporary.

Points of review:

1. The Kuffar tried to tempt Rasulullah (S) but they were disappointed.
2. They made a social boycott of Rasulullah's family for three years.

¹According to some accounts Rasulullah(S) had only one son, Ibrahim(R) from Khadijah(R); Tayyib(R) and Tahir(R) were his titles.

3. Rasulullah (S) lost his wife, Khadijah (R), and uncle Abu Talib, due to the hardships of the social boycott.

Words to remember:

Boycott, fearsome.

Important names

Utba bin Rabi'a, Valley of Abu Talib.

Quranic Study

Read *Ha Mim Sajdah* 41:1-38. What does it say about: 1) The Quran; 2) Prophet Muhammad's mission; 3) Powers of Allah; 4) and the *Kuffar*?